

REMARKS

This response is submitted following a telephone interview with Examiner Kim on March 1, 2005.

As explained at the interview, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 1, 8, 9 as being unpatentable over Ries et al., since the Examiner has reached an erroneous conclusion based on an apparent misunderstanding of the construction in Ries et al. If the Examiner persists in rejecting the claims, this will be a miscarriage of justice.

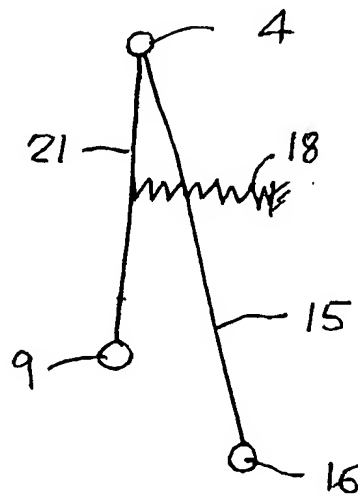
Briefly, the invention provides means (such as wedge element 3) for following insertion of a booklet between rollers 2 to adjust initial separation between following rollers 1.

On the contrary, Ries provides no separation of following rollers 8 and 9 when material is inserted between rollers 3 and 4. In fact, when the rollers 3 and 4 are separated when material is introduced therebetween, roller 9 is pressed with greater force against roller 8.

The Examiner mistakenly assumes that the spring biased means 18 in Ries "will inherently cause separation of the second pair of roller as the material passes through the first pair of rollers". The Examiner appears to be looking at Fig. 1 of Ries and assuming that spring 18 and roller 9 are carried by lever arm 15 and that when lever arm 15 pivots around shaft 16, the roller 9 will be moved away from roller 8. However, this is not the case as Ries

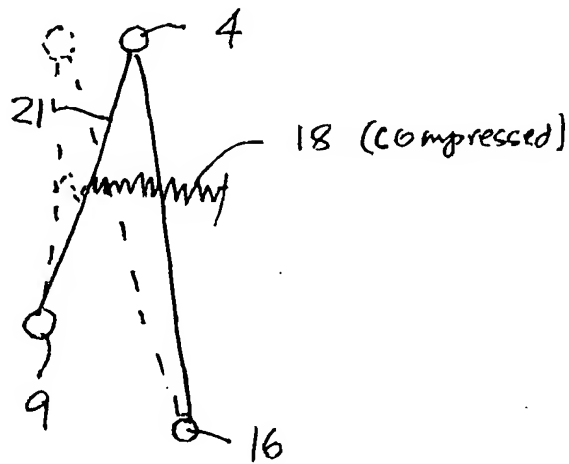
shows a two-arm linkage comprising lever arm 15 carrying roller 4 and a second arm (connecting arm 21) hinged to the shaft 14 of roller 4 and carrying roller 9 at its lower end. The spring 18 acts on arm 21 to press rollers 4 and 9 respectively against rollers 3 and 8 (column 2, lines 45-52). The structural arrangement is shown schematically in the sketch hereafter.

Sketch 1



When the material enters between rollers 3 and 4, roller 4 is moved to the right by pivotal movement of lever 15 around shaft 16. This causes connecting arm 21 to pivot around roller 9 and compress spring 18, roller 9 being pressed with greater force against roller 8. This is shown in the sketch below (the original position being shown in dotted outline).

Sketch 2



The roller 9 is only moved away from roller 8 when the material passes into the nip between rollers 8 and 9 further compressing spring 18 (column 3, lines 26-35).

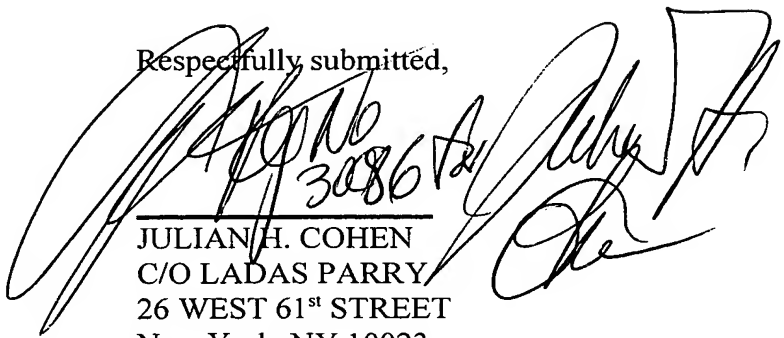
It is therefore respectfully submitted that Ries does not adjust the separation of rollers 8 and 9 in response to separation of rollers 3 and 4 upon insertion of material between rollers 3 and 4 and therefore Ries cannot render claims 1, 8, and 9 obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 1, 8, and 9 are allowable, as they stand, along with allowable claims 2-7 and 16-19.

Claims 10 and 11 have been amended to depend from pending claims thereby avoiding the objection that they depend from a cancelled claim.

The Bakoledis patent cited with Ries in the rejection of claims 11-15 ultimately dependent from claim 1 has no relevance to the distinctive features recited above.

Favorable reconsideration by the Examiner and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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